

Budget Initiative Fact Sheet

Office: Child and Family Services

Date: 12/13/2011

Initiative: 7484 – Alternative Response Program

Account: 0139

I. Budget Proposal Description:

Reduces funding to Alternative Response Program by 50 percent of the current appropriation.

II. Program Description:

The Alternative Response Program (ARP) provides community based intervention services to families who have been reported to DHHS with allegations of low to moderate severity child abuse and/or neglect. Also, families considered to be appropriate referrals for this program are those in need of intervention services to enhance child safety and well-being but do not require Child Protective Services.

III. Relevant Legislative History:

- The Alternative Response Program (ARP) was developed in 1999 after the Legislature learned that the department was unable to investigate nearly 40 percent of the child abuse and neglect reports it received due to insufficient staff. The Legislature allocated more than \$4 million annually for the ARP to assess and intervene in reports of low to moderate severity child abuse and neglect.
- As capacity for state child welfare staff to investigate these reports increased due to decreasing numbers of children in foster care cases, several budget initiatives to reduce funding for ARP have been submitted over the last several years.
- The Legislature approved a \$1 million reduction in the ARP funding for SFY 09. For SFY 10 the Legislature approved another \$500,000 reduction to ARP funding and an additional \$222,464 was disencumbered through a financial order, due to unspent funds.

IV. Financial Information:

1) 4 Years of Spending:

	SFY'08	SFY'09	SFY'10	SFY'11	SFY'12	SFY'13
General Fund	Encumbered \$4,307,714 Spent \$3,288,953	Encumbered \$3,079,999 Spent \$1,648,482	Encumbered \$2,357,536.00 Spent \$1,801,113	Encumbered \$2,834,095 Spent \$2,699,028	Encumbered \$2,579,999 Spent n/a	Encumbered \$2,579,999 Spent n/a
Other Special Revenue						
Federal Funds						
Total	\$3,288,953	\$1,648,482	\$1,801,113	\$2,699,028	\$2,579,999	\$2,579,999

2) Department Program Staff:

Number of employees: 1 Cost of employees: \$ 72,751.64 salary/fringe

V. Total Individuals Served: 2,275 (total FY11)

- Program Eligibility Criteria: Families who have been reported to DHHS with allegations of low/moderate severity of child abuse or neglect by the parent/caregiver.
- Families who received a Part 1 or completed DHHS Child Protective Assessment and low/moderate severity child abuse or neglect by the parent/caregiver has been found parents have the capacity and willingness to make changes that will enable them to care for and protect their children.
- Families who received a Part 1 or completed DHHS Child Protective Assessment and no maltreatment found. However, the Department is concerned for the safety and well-being of the children due to significant risk factors being present.
- Families with a recently born baby who is reported by medical providers because of a suspicion that the baby has been affected by prenatal drug exposure.

VI. Current Budget Proposal:

- 1) Appropriation Increase: \$
- 2) Appropriation Decrease: \$1,290,000.00
- 3) Description of Budget Proposal:

Reduce funding to Alternative Response Program by 50% of current appropriation

- 4) Percent of the reduction vs. total funding for the program: 50%

- 5) Any contracts impacted? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Contract/Vendor	Total Contract \$	Reduction	% of Total
Community Concepts CFS-8601	\$430,564	TBD	TBD
Families United CFS-8602	\$696,188	TBD	TBD
Home Counselors Inc. CFS-8604	\$713,589	TBD	TBD
Spurwink CFS-8605	\$739,659	TBD	TBD

VII. Legal Requirements:

There are no legal issues as this reduction is based on a plan that transfers that portion of the assessment and intervention work to state staff. Therefore, the legally mandated activities will still be completed.

- VIII. Maintenance of Effort Requirements?: ☐ Yes ☒ No

- IX. Q & A follow-up after committee session held on _____
Date